

The Distribution of Ophioglossum petiolatum Hooker
in the United States with a Report of it from Virginia

by

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Stalked adders-tongue (Ophioglossum petiolatum Hooker) was first collected in the United States from Florida in 1935 (Wherry 1964). It was collected from Jefferson County, Texas in 1937 (Thomas 1979). It is now distributed from Wink County, Texas (Correll 1956) and McCurtain County, Oklahoma (Thomas 1978a) through Louisiana and Arkansas (Thomas 1978b) north to the bootheel of Missouri (Thomas, Marx, and Lawson 1974), east through Mississippi (Thomas and Rogers 1973), Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and north near the coast through South Carolina, North Carolina (Thomas and Marx 1979), and now in Virginia.

The first collection of Ophioglossum petiolatum from Virginia was made by two of the authors in 1979. The citation is: Virginia Beach, Virginia; lawn of Tabernacle United Methodist Church west of Sandbridge Beach and southeast of Norfolk; R. Dale Thomas, P. Pias (now Cox), R. Twyman, and D. Dixon RDT 62948 & PP 4020, 1 April 1979. This west sandy lawn contained ten or so plants just emerging from the ground. The site was revisited on April 24, 1983 by Thomas and three of his graduate students (D. Moore, K. Gandhi, and D. Taylor). About ten plants were located at that time (RDT 83270).

The first collection was too early for most of the material to be big enough to be noticed. The second trip was after a very dry season and again was not under ideal conditions. This species was searched for throughout the area during the 1983 foray but no other specimens were found. Perhaps if one could look for it throughout several seasons, one might find it to be more abundant than it now seems. This species is usually present in fertile conditions during any warm month after several days of wet weather. This could be the extreme northeast edge of the range of this species but it is more likely that it is more abundant than the two collections indicate. The limitations of time and expenses have made it impossible for the authors to check further into this edge of the range. The authors think it is possible that this species might be found sometime in coastal Maryland, southern Illinois, and possibly southern Tennessee.

In the northern part of the range of Ophioglossum petiolatum, it is most commonly found near buildings (such as churches and schools) along the south wall where it grows with mosses in the moist sand where the water from the roof hits the ground. This is the most common habitat in Arkansas, Oklahoma, northern Louisiana, and Mississippi. It occurs in wet lawns, wet pastures, and wet spots in cemeteries in Texas and Louisiana and east to the Atlantic. In Florida it is abundant in shallow, sloped, mown ditches along most roads. It is extremely abundant in wet sand along the edge of Mobile Bay in Alabama. In coastal areas of the Carolinas it is common in lawns and near buildings. In Georgia the most common habitat seems to be along streams under bridges. In southern Louisiana (St. Mary and Assumption parishes) it grows with Psilotum nudum on the low levies in bottomland hardwood forests. This fern is also weedy when grown under greenhouse conditions.

There are voucher specimens in the herbarium of Northeast Louisiana University (NLU) from the following states and counties:

- ALABAMA: Baldwin, R. Dale Thomas, C. Allen, & G. Landry 43109; Mobile, RDT, C. Allen, & G. Landry 43105.
- ARKANSAS: Dallas, D. Lawson 225; Jefferson, R. Dale Thomas & W. G. Click 44091; White, RDT, P. Marx, D. Lawson, & J. Spencer 34184; Union, RDT 27918.
- FLORIDA: Alachua, R. Dale Thomas & P. Marx 37813; Baker, RDT & P. Marx 37876; Bradford, RDT & P. Marx 37870; Citrus, RDT & P. Marx 37828; Clay, RDT & P. Marx 37868; Duval, RDT & P. Marx 37886; Flagler, RDT, P. Pias, J. McCoy, & G. Landry 56734; Gilchrist, RDT, P. Pias, J. McCoy, & G. Landry 56707; Hernando, RDT & P. Marx 37847; Lake, RDT & P. Marx 37848; Levy, RDT & P. Marx 37820; Marion, RDT & P. Marx 37825; Nassau, RDT & P. Marx 37881; Okeechobee, RDT, P. Cox, J. McCoy, & G. Landry 56767; Orange, T. Scott s.n.; Osceola, T. Scott s.n.; Palm Beach, C.E. Nauman 878; Putnam, RDT & P. Marx 37851; Seminole, RDT, P. Cox, J. McCoy, & G. Landry 56740; Sumter, RDT & P. Marx 37833; Taylor, RDT & P. Marx 37801; Union, RDT & P. Marx 37874; Volusia, RDT, P. Pias, J. McCoy, & G. Landry 56730.
- GEORGIA: Berrien, R. Dale Thomas 48418; Brantley, RDT & P. Marx 37904; Bryan, RDT & P. Marx 37911; Bullock, RDT & P. Marx 37913; Camden, RDT & P. Marx 37888; Clinch, RDT 48420; Cook, RDT 48416; Echols, RDT & W. Faircloth 48405; Glynn, RDT & P. Marx 37894; Lanier, RDT 48419; Liberty, RDT & P. Marx 37910; Long, RDT 48426; Lowndes, J. Norsworthy 251; Pierce, RDT 48424; Ware, RDT 48423; Wayne, RDT 48425.

- LOUISIANA: Acadia, R. Dale Thomas, P. Pias, et al. 46599;
Allen, C. M. Allen 12688; Assumption, RDT, L. Tycer, &
G. Landry 37524; Beauregard, RDT 38129; Bienville,
RDT & D. Moreland 45354; Bossier, RDT 42509; Caddo,
RDT & R. Overby 33845; Calcasieu, J. Parker 533; Caldwell,
P. Marx 2075; Cameron, RDT, B. Dutton, & D. Taylor
91694; Claiborne, RDT, L. Lewis, & D. Dixon 70606;
DeSoto, RDT & D. Dixon 64323; East Baton Rouge, RDT,
C. Allen, & G. Landry 46870; Evangeline RDT, P. Pias,
et al. 56601; Franklin, RDT & G. Joye 80274; Grant,
RDT 79021; Jackson, RDT 38298; Jefferson, RDT, C. Allen
J. McCoy, & D. Moore 87373; Jefferson Davis, RDT &
S. D. Thomas 27567; Lafourche, RDT 56875; LaSalle,
RDT & P. Laird 42675; Lincoln, RDT 27231; Morehouse,
RDT & P. Pias 51377; Natchitoches, RDT, W. Wagner,
& M. Mesler 27733; Ouachita, RDT, P. Pias, et al.
51322; Rapides, RDT 38156; Sabine, RDT 27264; St.
Bernard, RDT, D. Dixon, et al. 69935; St. Mary, RDT,
L. Tycer, & G. Landry 37496; St. Tammany, RDT 64945;
Tangipahoa, RDT, C. Allen, & G. Landry 43142; Union
RDT & Family 33871; Vermilion, RDT, P. Pias, et al.
56561; Washington, RDT & C. Allen 46992; Webster,
L. G. Lewis 1259; Winn, RDT 37986.
- MISSISSIPPI: Adams R. Dale Thomas, P. Marx, C. Painter
& A. Scurria 37681; Franklin RDT, P. Marx, C. Painter,
& A. Scurria 37686; George, RDT, C. Allen, & G. Landry
43033; Hancock, RDT, C. Allen, & G. Landry 42888;
Harrison, RDT, C. Allen, & G. Landry 43123; Jackson,
RDT, C. Allen, & G. Landry 43114; Pearl River, RDT,
C. Allen & G. Landry 42913; Stone, RDT, C. Allen, &
G. Landry 42987.
- MISSOURI: Peniscot, R. Dale Thomas & P. Marx 34700.
- NORTH CAROLINA: Beaufort, R. Dale Thomas & P. Marx 48502;
Brunswick, RDT 48454; Cartaret, RDT & P. Marx 48489;
Craven, RDT 48476; Dare, RDT & P. Marx 48524; Washington,
RDT & P. Marx 48509.
- OKLAHOMA: McCurtain, R. Dale Thomas 34037.
- SOUTH CAROLINA: Berkeley, R. Dale Thomas & P. Marx 37939;
Colleton, RDT & P. Marx 37927;
- TEXAS: Hardin, R. Dale Thomas & S. D. Thomas 27486; Jasper
RDT, P. Marx, & C. Allen 39781; Liberty, RDT & S. D.
Thomas 27593; Orange, RDT & S. D. Thomas 27584.
- VIRGINIA: Virginia Beach, R. Dale Thomas, D. Dixon, P.
Pias, & R. Twyman 62948.

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